

I have been a satellite radio user for the past 4-6 months and find it a great alternative to the traditional radio stations available to me. I still listen to traditional radio stations a lot of the time, but I feel the extra monthly fee of satellite radio is worth the products that traditional radio cannot provide me. XM's addition of Instant Traffic and Weather is an invaluable tool that no radio station out there wants to offer...yet.

I feel XM should be allowed to provide this content for the following reasons:

1. I have not come across any radio station that can provide even LOCAL traffic 24x7, let alone the VERY detailed traffic information which is critical to help me route around problems in the DC area.

2. And there is certainly NO radio station which can provide me with traffic information on other cities of the country. I can use the information provided by XM to get to BWI airport, fly to LA, and then use XM to get local LA traffic information.

3. If the NAB wins in limiting what XM can provide, XM customers will simply find a new way of obtaining that same information...perhaps for FREE over the Internet. How does this help the radio stations? It only allows these radio stations to not improve their product offerings and continue for a few more months/years "business as usual" instead of trying to compete.

Satellite radio can provide content that no other audio medium can. I am sure every American takes the HUGE variety of television programming for granted that cable and satellite providers have been offering, and yet the traditional television stations are still alive and kicking and making lots of money. They learned to co-exist with this new level of competition and provide content that people actually want to listen to (if they did that in the first place, there would be less people paying for "radio" content). If the NAB is allowed to limit what satellite radio providers can provide their paying customers, then these same types of limits should be placed on cable and satellite television providers. Obviously that won't happen, so why is satellite radio any different?

Instead of fighting XM, the NAB should use their funds and efforts to help their constituent radio stations find new ways to compete with the "new kids on the block". Competition is a core value of the American economy and way of life. It can only improve things for consumers. It is not the purpose of our government to protect the "old guard" just because some new competitors have come onto the playing field. If anything, the government should be protecting XM from the much larger, established radio broadcasters who have many lobbyists with DEEP pockets that are out to help protect them. The new guys need all the help they can get to increase competition.